

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of October 22, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claim 10 was allowed.

Claims 4-7 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0061029 to Shaket (hereinafter Shaket). Claims 1-3, 8, 9, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaket in view of U.S. Patent 6,356,869 to Chapados, *et al.* (hereinafter Chapados).

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for a thorough examination and for correctly noting the allowable subject matter. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants nevertheless have amended independent Claims 1, 4, 8, 15, and 18 so as to expedite prosecution of the present application by reciting in each of the claims those features deemed to directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully note, however, that neither the amendments nor cancellation of claims are intended as, and should not be interpreted as, the surrender of any subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

As amended, independent Claims 1 and 4 recite, in the context of methods for processing user dialogue, the following: using a main menu detector to process context dependent data to distinguish user inputs specifying requested actions from user inputs specifying tokens for performing actions; using a classifier to distinguish user inputs

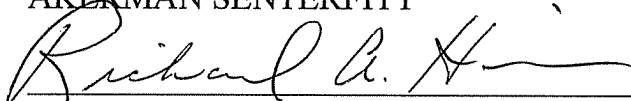
specifying context dependent data from user inputs specifying context independent data; using a classifier to route inputs specifying context dependent data to the main menu detector and user inputs specifying context independent data to an action router. Claims 15 and 18, as amended, recite these features in the context of a computer-readable storage medium. Amended Claim 8 expressly recites a main menu detector, classifier, and action router along with other elements for performing comparable functions.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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